

DELAWARE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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PUBLIC COMMENT
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Comments to Pubic Service Commission on DP&L's request for

Member, National Sierra Club Waste Prevention Committee

First, I'd like to thank the Commission for allowing conferencing hook-ups. This opportunity should be expanded to other hearings and workshops. It saves energy and allows greater participation of the public.

Second, I have asthma - although I do not smoke, get plenty of exercise, rest, and am healthy otherwise. So I am like the 'canary in the coal mine' for our dirty air in Delaware. I know my health care costs for asthma are significant – more than \$5000/year. Adding costs like this across society shows that the money spent on health care due to pollution is significant.

The Public Service Commission should not allow DP&L or any other power plant in the state to increase capacity for all of the good reasons brought up during this workshop today: global warming, health costs to children and adults, and need to plan for the future. Deregulation in 1999 disconnected pollution responsibility from the electric providers. We should reconnect the responsibility via some means of re-regulation.

Our old-dirty-polluting power plants must be closed and rebuilt with the most efficient, least polluting technologies available today. This may mean fossil fuels for the moment. However, we need to be thinking of the transition to a sustainable and renewable energy future without fossil-fuels.

We must also include incentives to the large power generators to incorporate a certain percentage of renewable energy sources in their plans during this transition period, which should begin now.

Clean Energy Funding incentives can come from a dedicated tax on electric, heating oil, and gas utility retail revenues - returned to the companies to transition to power production based on new renewable energy.

Renewable or 'Green' Energy does not include waste incineration or methane from landfills. Both of these sources, which have been "sold" by waste operators to cover their mishandling of waste, are very dirty sources that compete with more effective methods of waste handling. Any Green Energy credits must be stopped as soon as possible, because they actually waste energy and contribute huge amounts of CO2 and CH4 compared to the alternatives of conservation, recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

The power companies along with state and federal government should instead encourage conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and decentralization of the power network. Direct subsidies to residents, the commercial, institutional and governmental sectors will move this effort along quickly, perhaps from the same tax mentioned above.

We should “contemplate a future of smaller, interconnected networks, thereby reducing the distance needed for transmission and distribution of power”. Much power generated is lost via long transmission lines from power plants. This will save energy and improve grid stability and reliability.

“Many opportunities exist in our communities for the local, small-scale application of renewable technologies (such as rooftop solar) or for efficient use of waste heat from fuel use (Combined Heat and Power)”, wind energy and geothermal. Excess energy generated per building will feed into the local grid, perhaps after charging back-up batteries, so that some places may actually be “off the grid” when needed.

We must be planning ahead for a sustainable, fossil-free future.

Reference: 2006 draft National Sierra Energy Policy